

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/925,008

Applicant(s)

HEEJUNE AHN

Examiner

WILLIAM D CUMMING

Art Unit

2683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed December 23, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 9-29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Line 3, delete "*is disclosed*"

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose or make obvious the request of the forward data transmission through a data rate channel of a reverse link.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "*Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.*"

Response to Amendment

5. Elimination of Post Office Box in Arlington, Virginia for Patent Related Correspondence

Effective immediately, the Office will cease accepting patent-related correspondence addressed to the P.O. Box 2327 Arlington, VA 22202. Effective May 1, 2003, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.1, patent-related correspondence should have been addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Accordingly, as of May 1, 2003, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.8 (Certificate of Mailing) and 1.10 (Express Mail certificate) that were waived by the Office were no longer waived for correspondence addressed to P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

In November of 2001, the Office established a Post Office Box in Arlington, Virginia (P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202) for use on an emergency basis, and indicated that the Office would continue to accept patent-related correspondence at this Arlington, Virginia Post Office Box and treat such correspondence as if it were addressed as set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 for purposes of 37 CFR 1.8 and 1.10 until further notice. On March 25, 2003, the Office provided notice that persons submitting correspondence to the Office should no longer use the Arlington, Virginia Post Office Box for any correspondence (including sequence listings in electronic format) after May 1, 2003. See Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

Correspondence in patent-related matters to organizations reporting to the Commissioner for Patents must be addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Appropriate mail stops should also be used. See the notice titled "Special Mail Stops For Patent Mail" that is published each week in the Official Gazette Notices and posted on the USPTO Internet web site.

Questions regarding this notice may be e-mailed to PatentPractice@uspto.gov, or directed to the Inventors' Assistance Center (formerly the Patent Assistance Center (PAC)) by telephone at 800-786-9199 or 703-308-4357. **OG Notices: 29 June 2004**

6. Patent Application Publications May Now Include Amendments

As a consequence of the use of Image File Wrappers (IFW), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) has begun to publish patent applications with amendments that expedite the publication process. For example, the patent application publication may be based upon amendments to the specification that are reflected in a substitute specification, an amendment to the abstract, amendments to the claims that are reflected in a complete claim listing, and amendments to the drawings that are reflected in replacement drawing sheets, provided that such substitute specification or amendment is submitted in sufficient time to be entered into the application file wrapper before technical preparations for publication of the application have begun. Technical preparations for publication of an application generally begin between fourteen and nine weeks prior to the projected date of publication (the projected publication date is indicated on the filing receipt for the patent application). Accordingly, the provisions 37 CFR 1.215(a) are waived to the extent that they are inconsistent with this change in practice. 37 CFR 1.215(a) will be revised consistent with this change in practice, when the rule changes proposed in Changes To Support Implementation of the United States Patent and Trademark Office 21st Century Strategic Plan, 68 Fed. Reg. 53816 (Sept. 12, 2003), 1275 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 23 (Oct 7, 2003) are made final.

Although the Office has begun to include amendments in patent application publications, applicants desiring to ensure that a patent application publication reflects an amendment should submit the application, as amended, through the Electronic Filing System (EFS). See 37 CFR 1.215(c). See also Helpful Hints Regarding Publication of Patent Applications, 1249 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 83 (August 21, 2001). In addition, if the application is not maintained in an IFW, and the amended application is not submitted through EFS, a petition under 37 CFR 1.182 will continue to be necessary for certain drawings to be included in the patent application publication. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 507 (8th ed. 2001, rev. 1, Feb. 2003).

General questions regarding publication of patent applications should be directed to the Customer Service Center, Office of Patent Publication, by telephone at (703) 305-8283. Questions regarding the Electronic Filing System should be directed to (703) 305-3028. Questions of a legal nature should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 308-6906. **OG Notices: 13 April 2004**

7. Oversized Postcards Must Be Submitted With Sufficient Postage

Recently, a number of return receipt postcards have been returned to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Office) because the postcards contained insufficient postage for an oversized postcard. Oversized postcards require First-Class letter postage. Customers are reminded that they are solely responsible for placing the proper postage on self-addressed postcards that are submitted to the Office for the purpose of obtaining a receipt for correspondence being filed in the Office.

Customers should be aware of the following guidance from the USPS regarding postage and acceptability for postcards:

1. In order to be eligible for the First-Class Mail card rates (currently \$0.23 per card, domestic delivery), cards must be of uniform thickness and made of unfolded and uncreased paper or card stock of approximately the quality and weight of a Postal Service stamped card. Cards claimed at the First-Class postcard rate must be:

(a) Rectangular;

(b) No less than 3-1/2 inches high, 5 inches long, and 0.007 inch thick; and

(c) No more than 4-1/4 inches high, 6 inches long, and 0.016 inch thick.

2. Cards that measure more than 4-1/4 inches high, 6 inches long, or 0.016 inch thick are charged postage at the First-Class Mail letter rates.

3. Cards that measure less than 3-1/2 inches high, 5 inches long, and 0.007 inch thick are nonmailable.

Any return receipt postcard that does not contain sufficient postage or is not acceptable may not be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to the address provided on the postcard, and, if returned to the Office, may be discarded.

For information regarding the Office's postcard receipt practice in patent-related matters, see Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (8th Ed., Rev. 1, Feb. 2003), Section 503. Questions regarding sufficient postage for postcards should be directed to the

Art Unit: 2683 1/6/2005

8. Allowance

United States Postal Service. Questions regarding this notice may be e-mailed to PatentPractice@uspto.gov, or directed to the Inventors' Assistance Center by telephone at (800)786-9199, or (703)308-4357. **OG Notices: 29 June 2004**

8. SPECIAL MAIL STOPS FOR PATENT MAIL

Revisions have been made to the list of mail stops. The mail stops that **should no longer be used** are: Mail Stop Application Number, Mail Stop CPA, Mail Stop Design, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Mail Stop PGPUB-ABD, Mail Stop Patent Application, and Mail Stop Provisional Patent Application. Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment has been changed to Mail Stop Amendment. In addition, Mail Stop PGPUB-ABD has been changed to Mail Stop Express Abandonment and all requests and petitions for an express abandonment under 37 CFR 1.138 should be directed to Mail Stop Express Abandonment or transmitted by facsimile to 703-305-8568. Lastly, Mail Stop L&R and Mail Stop Post Issue have been established.

For most correspondence (e.g., new patent applications) no mail stop is required because the processing of the correspondence is routine. If **NO mail stop is included on the list below**, then **NO mail stop is required for the correspondence**. Special mail stop designations should only be used for particular types of mail that may be forwarded to the appropriate area without being opened, or that may be processed with the remaining mail. Only the specified type of document should be placed in an envelope addressed to one of these special mail stops. If any documents other than the specified type identified for each special mail stop are addressed to that mail stop, they will be significantly delayed in reaching the appropriate area for which they are intended. The mail stop should generally appear as the first line in the address.

Petitions for a foreign filing license may be faxed to: 703-305-7658.

Some correspondence may be submitted electronically. See the Office's Internet Web site <http://www.uspto.gov> for additional information.

Please address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows:

Mail Stop ____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Except correspondence for Maintenance Fee payments, Deposit Account Replenishments (see 1.25(c)(4)), and Licensing and Review (see 37 CFR 5.1(c) and 5.2(c)), please address mail to be delivered by other delivery services (Federal Express (Fed Ex), UPS, DHL, Laser, Action, Purolater, etc.) as follows:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street South
Customer Window, Mail Stop ____

Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Note: The Customer Window will be moving to the new Alexandria location in August or September of 2004.

Mail Stop Designations	Explanation
Mail Stop 12	Contributions to the Examiner Education Program.
Mail Stop 313(c)	Petitions under 37 CFR 1.313(c) to withdraw a patent application from issue after payment of the issue fee and any papers associated with the petition, including papers necessary for a continuing application or a request for continued examination (RCE).
Mail Stop AF	Amendments and other responses after final rejection, other than an appeal brief.
Mail Stop Amendment	Information disclosure statements, drawings, and replies to Office actions in patent applications with or without an amendment to the application or a terminal disclaimer. (Use Mail Stop AF for replies after final rejection.).
Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents	For appeal briefs under 37 CFR 1.192 or reply briefs under 37 CFR 1.193(a).
Mail Stop Comments-Patents	Public comments regarding patent related regulations and procedures.
Mail Stop Conversion	Requests under 37 CFR 1.53(c)(2) to convert a nonprovisional application to a provisional application and requests under 37 CFR 1.53(c)(3) to convert a provisional application to a nonprovisional application.
Mail Stop DD	Disclosure Documents or materials related to the Disclosure Document Program. (A disclosure document is NOT an information disclosure statement.) Instead of filing a disclosure document, inventors are encouraged to file a provisional patent application.
Mail Stop EBC	Mail for the Electronic Business Center including:

8. Allowance

Certificate Action Forms, Request for Customer Numbers, and Requests for Customer Number Data Change (USPTO Forms PTO-2042, PTO/SB/124A and 125A, respectively) and Customer Number Upload Spreadsheets and Cover Letters.

- Mail Stop Expedited Design** Only to be used for the initial filing of design applications accompanied by a request for expedited examination under 37 CFR 1.155. (Design applicants seeking expedited examination may alternatively file a design application and corresponding request under 37 CFR 1.155 by hand-delivering the application papers and request directly to the Design Group Director's office.)
- Mail Stop Express Abandonment** Requests for abandonment of a patent application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.138, including any petitions under 37 CFR 1.138(c) to expressly abandon an application to avoid publication of the application. (This new mail stop should be used instead of Mail Stop PGPUB- ABD. Applicants are encouraged to transmit the requests by facsimile to (703) 305-8568.))
- Mail Stop ILS** Correspondence relating to international patent classification, exchanges and standards.
- Mail Stop Issue Fee** All communications following the receipt of a PTOL-85, "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due," and prior to the issuance of a patent should be addressed to Mail Stop Issue Fee, unless advised to the contrary. Assignments are the exception. Assignments (with cover sheets) should be faxed to 703-306-5995, electronically submitted, or submitted in a separate envelope and be sent to Mail Stop Assignment Recordation Services, Director - U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as shown below.
- Mail Stop L&R** All documents pertaining to applications subject secrecy order pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 181, or are national-security classified and required to be processed accordingly. Such papers may also be hand carried to: Technology Center 3600, Office of the Director 2451 Crystal Drive, Room 3D07 Arlington, VA 22202

Mail Stop Missing Parts	Requests for a corrected filing receipt and replies to OIPE notices such as the Notice of Omitted Items, Notice to File Corrected Application Papers, Notice of Incomplete Application, Notice to Comply with Nucleotide Sequence Requirements, and Notice to File Missing Parts of Application, and associated papers and fees.
Mail Stop MPEP	Submissions concerning the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure.
Mail Stop Patent Ext.	Applications for patent term extension and any communications relating thereto.
Mail Stop PCT	Mail related to applications filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
Mail Stop Petition	Petitions to be decided by the Office of Petitions including petitions to revive and petitions to accept late payment of issue fees or maintenance fees.
Mail Stop PGPUB	Correspondence regarding publication of patent applications not otherwise provided, including requests for early publication made after filing, rescission of non-publication request, corrected patent application publication, refund of publication fee.
Mail Stop Post Issue	In patented files: requests for changes of correspondence address, powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501. Designation of, or changes to, a fee address should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence. Requests for Certificate of Correction need no special mail stop, but should be made to the attention of Certificate of Correction Branch.
Mail Stop RCE	Requests for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.
Mail Stop Reconstruction	Correspondence pertaining to the reconstruction of lost patent files.
Mail Stop <i>Ex Parte</i> Reexam	Requests for Reexamination for original request papers only .
Mail Stop <i>Inter Partes</i> Reexam	Requests for <i>Inter Partes</i> Reexamination for <i>original</i>

request papers and for all *subsequent* correspondence other than correspondence to the Office of the Solicitor (see 37 CFR §§ 1.1(a)(3) and 1.302(c)).

Mail Stop Reissue	All new and continuing reissue application filings.
Mail Stop Sequence	Submission of the computer readable form (CRF) for applications with sequence listings, when the CRF is not being filed with the patent application.

ADDRESS FOR TRADEMARK MAIL

The box designations previously listed in Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure, Section 305.01 are no longer in use. See Change of Address for Mailing Trademark Correspondence, which is posted on the USPTO Internet web site at:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/trademarks/tmmailingaddressnotice.htm>. Please address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows:

Commissioner for Trademarks
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3514

SPECIAL MAIL STOPS APPLICABLE TO BOTH PATENT AND TRADEMARK MAIL

The following special mail stop designations are applicable to both patent and trademark related mail, and the recommendations for "Special Mail Stops for Patent Mail" (above) should be followed for the types of mail listed below.

Please address mail to be directed to a mail stop identified below to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows (unless otherwise instructed):

Mail Stop _____
Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Mail Stop Designations	Explanation
Mail Stop 3	Mail for the Office of Personnel from NFC
Mail Stop 6	Mail for the Office of Procurement.
Mail Stop 8	All papers for the Office of the Solicitor except communications relating to pending litigation and disciplinary proceedings; papers relating to pending litigation in court cases shall be mailed only to Office of the Solicitor, PO Box 15667, Arlington, VA 22215 and papers related to pending disciplinary proceedings before the Administrative Law Judge or the Director

8. Allowance

	shall be mailed only to the Office of the Solicitor, PO Box 16116, Arlington, VA 22215.
Mail Stop 11	Mail for the Electronic Ordering Service (EOS).
Mail Stop 13	Mail for the Employee and Labor Relations Division.
Mail Stop 16	Mail related to refund requests, other than requests for refund of a patent application publication fee. Such requests should be directed to Mail Stop PGPub.
Mail Stop 17	Invoices directed to the Office of Finance.
Mail Stop 24	Mail for the Inventor's Assistance Program, including complaints about Invention Promoters.
Mail Stop 171	Vacancy Announcement Applications.
Mail Stop Assignment Recordation Services	All assignment documents, security interests, and other documents to be recorded in the Assignment records. Note that documents with cover sheets faxed to 703-306-5995 are processed much more quickly than those submitted by mail.
Mail Stop Congressional Relations	Mail for the Office of Congressional Relations.
Mail Stop Document Services	All requests for certified or uncertified copies of patent or trademark documents.
Mail Stop EEO	Mail for the Office of Civil Rights.
Mail Stop Enforcement	Mail for the Office of Enforcement.
Mail Stop Interference	Communications relating to interferences and applications and patents involved in interference.
Mail Stop International Relations	Mail for the Office of International Relations.
Mail Stop M Correspondence	Mail to designate or change a fee address, or other correspondence related to maintenance fees, except payments of maintenance fees in patents. See below for the address for maintenance fee payments.
Mail Stop OED	Mail for the Office of Enrollment and Discipline.

Art Unit: 2683 1/6/2005

8. Allowance

Maintenance Fee Payments

Payments* of maintenance fees in patents not submitted electronically over the Internet at www.uspto.gov should be mailed to:

United States Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 371611
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-1611

Deposit Account Replenishments

To send payment* to replenish deposit accounts, send the payments to:

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 70541
Chicago, IL 60673

* Payment of maintenance fees in patents (Attn: Maintenance Fee) and deposit account replenishment (Attn: Deposit Accounts) using hand-delivery and delivery by private courier may be made to:

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Attn: _____

One Crystal Park

2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 307

Arlington, Virginia 22202.

Questions regarding the information provided on this page should be directed to: Darnell Jayne, Legal Advisor in the Office of Patent Legal Administration, by telephone at (703) 308-6906 or by e-mail addressed to PatentPractice@uspto.gov.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 1-7 and 9-29 are allowed.

10. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Conclusion

11. Replacement Notice: Copies of Patent Application Records will be Provided in both Electronic and Paper Form

12.

The Official Gazette notice, published on August 24, 2004 entitled "*All Electronic Copies of Patent Application Records Will Now Be Provided as Certified Copies in Electronic Form*" (1285 Off. Gaz. Pat. Off, August 24, 2004) is hereby rescinded. The USPTO is reinstating, until further notice, the procedures

in effect prior to July 30, 2004 for providing certified copies of patent application records with paper certification statements. The USPTO will also offer electronic certified copies of patent application records at the requester's option.

Certified Copies with Paper Certification

Unless otherwise requested, certified copies of patent application records provided pursuant to 37 CFR 1.19 (b) will be produced with a paper certification statement, continuing the practice in effect prior to July 30, 2004. The certification statement will include an embossed seal and original signature.

Certified Copies with Electronic Certification

Customers ordering certified copies of patent applications as filed or patent-related file wrapper and contents of published applications from the USPTO website will have the option to choose electronic copies with electronic certification. These files include an imaged certification statement as part of a PDF file containing the document TIFF images. These electronic files are digitally signed by the USPTO for authenticity and integrity, and cannot be undetectably modified. Customers may choose to download these electronic files from the USPTO website or receive them on compact disc.

Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and Priority

Irrespective of whether the USPTO provides a paper certified copy or an electronic certified copy, Article 4(d)(3) of the Paris Convention prohibits any country that is a member of the convention from requiring further authentication of the certified copy for purposes of claiming priority under the Paris Convention. (The text of the Paris Convention and a list of its members are available at www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/paris/index.html.)

The USPTO is working with other intellectual property offices to encourage the acceptance of priority documents in electronic form with electronic certification. A list of offices and international intellectual property organizations that have agreed to accept electronic certified copies will be posted on the USPTO website soon, and updated regularly.

Questions should be directed to the Office of Public Records by email to opr@uspto.gov or by telephone at (703) 308-9743.

13. Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 enacted on December 8, 2004

H.R. 4818, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Consolidated Appropriations Act) was signed by President George W. Bush and enacted into law on December 8, 2004. The Consolidated Appropriations Act revises certain patent application and maintenance fees; provides separate fees for a basic filing fee, a search fee, and an examination fee; and requires an additional fee for any patent application whose specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper (application size fee). The new patent fees are now effective and will remain in effect during the remainder of fiscal year 2005 and during fiscal year 2006. The patent maintenance fee changes apply to any maintenance fee payment made on or after December 8, 2004, regardless of the filing or issue date of the patent for which the fee is submitted. The revised maintenance fees took effect on December 8, 2004. Thus, any maintenance fee paid at any time on (or after) December 8, 2004 is subject to the revised maintenance fee amounts set forth in the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Note: If you are paying via the USPTO' s Internet Web site, there will likely be a delay in updating the maintenance-fee information on the USPTO' s Office of Finance On-Line Shopping Web page. Therefore, if paying on-line, please refer to the updated fee schedule to ensure that you include the appropriate updated fee amount. Maintenance fees must be timely paid in the appropriate amount to avoid expiration of a patent.

The new basic filing fee (or national fee), search fee, examination fee, and application size fee apply to national patent applications (other than provisional applications) filed on or after December 8, 2004, and to international patent applications in which the basic national fee is paid on or after December 8, 2004. The new provisional application filing fee applies to any provisional application filing fee paid on or after December 8, 2004. The filing fee (or national fee), search fee, and examination fee are due on filing. If the filing fee (or national fee) is paid on filing, but the search fee and/or examination fee is missing, the USPTO will issue a notice requiring that any missing search fee and examination fee (but no surcharge until further notice) be paid within a specified period of time in order to avoid abandonment. Thus, if at least the full basic filing fee under the Consolidated Appropriations Act is paid on or after December 8, 2004, the USPTO will issue a notice requiring any balance of the search fee and the examination fee (but no surcharge).

The remaining patent application fee changes, including the excess claims fees, extension of time fees, and appeal fees, apply to any fee payment made on or after December 8, 2004, regardless of the filing date of the application for which the fee is submitted.

USPTO customers should monitor the USPTO' s Internet Web site frequently for current patent fee information.

Payments from foreign countries must be payable and immediately negotiable in the United States for the full amount of the fee required.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **WILLIAM D CUMMING** whose telephone number is 703-305-4394. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 10:30am to 8:30pm.

15. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **WILLIAM TROST** can be reached on 703-308-5318. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

wdc

Application/Control Number: 09/925,008

Page 16


Art Unit: 2683 1/6/2005

8. Allowance



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE

William Cumming
Primary Patent Examiner
(703) 305-4394
(703) 746-6075 Fax
william.cumming@uspto.gov



WILLIAM CUMMING
PRIMARY EXAMINER